

Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 FRB-02 XMB-07

OPIC-12 AGR-20 L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 006615

R 030620Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1803

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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5. ALP EXECUTIVE AGENDA CONTAINS ALSO ITEM RELATING TO PUBLIC CRITICISM BY ONE ALP OFFICIAL OF ANOTHER. THIS IS INSPIRED BY ATTACKS EARLIER THIS YEAR BY "SOCIALIST LEFT" ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BARNARD IN HIS ROLE AS MINISTER FOR DEFENSE. DISCUSSION WILL TAKE ON NEW DIMENSION IN LIGHT OF HAWKE'S PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS OF CABINET DECISION TO BUILD SECOND SYDNEY AIRPORT, ANNOUNCED ON EVE OF PARRAMATTA BY-ELECTION. HAWKE FELT THAT LABOR PARTY MADE MISERABLE SHOWING AND DIRECTLY BLAMED ILL-TIMED ANNOUNCEMENT OF AIRPORT PROJECT. INEVITABLY, HAWKE'S RECENT ACTION OVERSHADOWS ORIGINAL INTENT OF AGENDA ITEM, AND MAY PRECIPITATE ADDITIONAL CRISIS IN ALP. HOWEVER, HAWKE IS CONFIDENT THAT HE HAD GOOD REASON FOR HIS CRITICISM WHILE SOCIALIST-LEFT CONDUCT WAS "PURELY MISCHIEVOUS."

6. COMMENT: HAWKE, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM BRIEF QUEENSLAND VACATION IS IN FIGHTING FORM. HE FEELS HE "HAS THE NUMBERS" TO EMERGE FROM ALP EXECUTIVE MEETING

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THIS WEEKEND IN STRONG POSITION. SUSPICION THAT WHITLAM

AND HAWKE HAVE ENDED HONEYMOON PERIOD IS NOW APPARENT
FACT. HAWKE REJECTS OUT OF HAND IDEA THAT WHITLAM IS
BEING ASTUTE ON PRICES AND WAGES QUESTION, OR THAT HE
WAS ATTEMPTING TO SWITCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUED
INFLATION TO GENERAL VOTERS OR TO ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT
OPPOSE CONTROLS IN EITHER AREA, HE EVIDENTLY FEELS
WHITLAM IS BECOMING BLOODY-MINDED ABOUT TAKING ADVICE
AND NEEDS TO BE PULLED UP SHORT. HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS
MIN. LABOR CAMERON AND HIS RECENT DIFFERENCES WITH SEVERAL FACTIONS
OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. EVIDENTLY, HAWKE'S LONG-STANDING
DISLIKE FOR THE MINISTER HAS NOT ABATED. IT IS
PREDICTABLE THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY LABOR GROUP
WILL BE IN THE CLASSIC SITUATION OF MOST SOCIALIST
GOVERNMENTS WHICH ULTIMATELY FIND THEMSELVES IN
COLLISION WITH THEIR TRADE UNION SUPPORTERS. LABATT
RECALLS FATE OF SEVERAL BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WHICH FELL
AS RESULT OF SIMILAR EXPERIENCE. IF WHITLAM GOVERNMENT
TO SURVIVE IT MUST MAKE COMPROMISE TO REMAIN IN OFFICE
AS AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAS ARRIVED AT ITS
STICKING POINT MUCH SOONER THAN COULD HAVE BEEN
ANTICIPATED IN WEEKS FOLLOWING DECEMBER 1972 ELECTION.
FLUKER

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NNN

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